



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 2426, S.D. 2 (SSCR 2768)
Relating to University of Hawai'i

Testimony Presented Before the House
Committee on Higher Education

March 16, 2004

By

Randy Hitz
Dean
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**S.B. 2426, S.D. 2 (SSCR 2768): Relating to University of
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Chair Takai, Vice Chair Tamayo, and Members of the
Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports S. B. 2426 S.D. 2 (SSCR
2768).

Our understanding of S.B. 2426, S.D. 2 is that it is
intended to provide support for the College of Education's
Office for School Redesign (OSR). The OSR was created by
the College of Education and the Department of Education for
the purpose of assisting principals and teachers in creating
small schools.

Creating small schools is a priority of the State Department
of Education (DOE). The DOE and the College of Education
are currently allocating resources to this effort in
partnership and are seeking funds from private sources. The
funds provided through this bill will enable the Office for
School Redesign to begin operations and leverage support
from outside the state system and from outside the state.

There is compelling evidence to indicate that high school
students in smaller schools achieve better than their peers
in larger high schools. Smaller high schools under 400
students are able to develop learning communities that keep
more students engaged in academics as well as music,
athletics, and other extracurricular activities. Students
so engaged are more likely to graduate and to lead
successful lives as adults.

We recommend that language in the bill be modified to
reflect the purpose of supporting an existing office rather
than establishing a center. The university and Board of
Regents will consider establishing a center when and if
sufficient resources are obtained to sustain it over time.

We will be happy to assist in rewriting the bill as appropriate.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Though the funding suggested in this bill is above that requested by the University, it is important, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of this bill.

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